

## Lithuanian government resigns

MOSCOW (R) — The Lithuanian government resigned Tuesday, raising the prospect of further confrontation between Moscow and separatists in the Baltic republic. "I resign with my cabinet of ministers," Prime Minister Kazimieras Prunskienė told parliament after it voted to suspend controversial food price rises. The announcement capped a stormy day in Lithuanian politics, separatist and pro-Moscow demonstrators scuffled outside parliament, boosting tension already high over the appearance of paratroops to enforce the Soviet military draft. Prunskienė, one of Lithuania's most popular politicians, has been at the forefront of the struggle for independence from Moscow. But she is regarded as a moderate in favour of dialogue with Moscow. Algimantas Cekulaitis, a nationalist deputy and journalist, said: "Prunskienė's resignation means we will now see a move towards greater nationalism." Prunskienė, who had just returned from a 30-minute meeting in the Kremlin with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, told parliament she had expressed concern about Monday's defence ministry order to clamp down on draft evasion.



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## Regent visits army unit

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday visited one of the formations of the Third Royal Armoured Division. Prince Hassan was briefed by the formation's commander on the training process and administrative issues.

## Queen meets German organisations on Gulf crisis impact

BONN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday held discussions in Bonn with representatives of several German welfare organisations and briefed them on the economic situation in Jordan following the crisis in the Gulf. Queen Noor discussed possible means of cooperation with Jordanian institutions with a view to initiating income-generating development projects for needy Jordanian families and helping in the economic rehabilitation of Jordanians returning from the Gulf. The discussions also covered Jordan's requirements in the event of another influx of evacuees and refugees into the country.

## Ortega arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived in Amman Tuesday from New York on his way to Baghdad for a three-day visit to Iraq. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Ortega said his visit comes within efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, especially before Wednesday's Geneva meeting between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. He said he will meet several senior Jordanian officials before leaving for Baghdad where he will meet Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Ortega was received in the airport by Minister of Culture and Youth Khaled Al Karaki and head of the Foreign Ministry's Political Department Khaled Obaidat.

## Islamic delegation heads for Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian Islamic delegation left Amman for Baghdad Tuesday to take part in a world Islamic conference which will start there Wednesday. The delegation comprises Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Baqi Gammo, Minister of Justice Majed Khalifa, Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research President Nasreddin Al Assad, several Lower House of Parliament members, Palestine National Council Speaker Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh and other public and Islamic figures. Taking part in the three-day conference will be 325 world Islamic, intellectual, political and scientific figures who will try to formulate a strategy for Islamic work in the light of the challenges facing Muslims in the world.

## 95th U.S. soldier dies in Gulf

DAHHRAN (R) — A U.S. marine was killed in a traffic accident in northeastern Saudi Arabia Sunday night, bringing the death toll among U.S. troops deployed in Operation "Desert Shield" to 95. The marine was travelling in a rented vehicle which was in a head-on collision with a five-ton truck, the U.S. military said Monday. Three other marines were injured in the accident.

## Goulding in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — U.N. Under-Secretary Marrack Goulding arrived in Beirut Tuesday for talks with Lebanese officials on renewing the mandate of a peacekeeping force in South Lebanon. Officials said Goulding met President Elias Hrawi upon his arrival and was expected to hold talks with House Speaker Hussein Husseini, Prime Minister Omar Karami, Foreign Minister Fares Bouez and army commander General Emile Lahoud.

## Paris signals own plan to resolve Gulf crisis

Combined agency dispatches

FRANCE TUESDAY signalled what appeared to be an independent approach to resolve the Gulf crisis through negotiations offering Iraq an international peace conference on the Middle East in return for its withdrawal from Kuwait.

Apparently alarmed by the French position, U.S. President George Bush called on Washington's partners in the anti-Iraq alliance to resist pressure and declared that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein now had a one-week deadline "to choose peace over war."

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, speaking to reporters after attending talks between President François Mitterrand and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, said the Jan. 15 deadline set by the U.N. for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait should be maintained despite the French initiative.

Although Dumas did not spell out what Paris had in mind, a senior French politician and confidant of Mitterrand said earlier that France should not sit "inert" and do nothing if Wednesday's talks between Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz failed.

In his comments to reporters, Dumas said:

(Continued on page 5)

## Aziz, Baker meet today, little shift seen in stands

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

IRAQI FOREIGN Minister Tareq Aziz and American Secretary of State James Baker meet in Geneva Wednesday in the first high-level contacts on the Gulf crisis and an encounter widely described by Washington as the "last chance" to avert a war over Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

There was no indication Tuesday of any change in the positions of the two sides. Baker was arriving in Geneva from Milan, Italy, the last leg of a European trip during which he campaigned for allied support for the American approach to the Gulf crisis and cautioned against any independent European position aimed at a negotiated settlement to the crisis.

Aziz upon his arrival in Geneva

(Continued on page 5)

## Top-level Iraqi delegation in Iran for Gulf crisis talks

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A top-level Iraqi delegation arrived in Tehran Tuesday to discuss solution to the Gulf crisis and follow up peace moves with Iran.

Tehran Radio said Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the ruling Revolution and Command Council, headed the mission to Tehran a week before a U.N. deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait or face force.

"We are to follow up a comprehensive (bilateral) peace and we hope... we can reach good results," said Vice-President Hassan Ebrahim Habibi, who met Ibrahim at Tehran's Mehrab airbase.

"We will also discuss ways of resolving the 'Persian' Gulf crisis with a view to the interests of the Islamic World," the radio quoted Habibi as saying.

Ibrahim, the most senior Iraqi official to visit Iraq since the 1979 revolution, called for progress in restoration of friendly relations between the two neighbours which fought a war from 1980 to 1988.

Ibrahim was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi, Transport and Communication Minister Mohammad Hamza Sa'eed Al Sahaf on the three-day visit.

Iran and Iraq, in another step towards a formal end to their eight-year war, will pull their last remaining border forces behind a kilometre-wide buffer zone Wednesday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

"The two sides have... agreed

va was asked if there was still an opportunity to avert a war in the Gulf.

The decision of war is the decision of (U.S. President George Bush), not ours, not ours," he told journalists at the Intercontinental hotel where the talks will be held.

In his airport statement, Aziz tied Iraq's occupation of Kuwait to resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a linkage that Bush has repeatedly rejected.

"If there is a genuine, sincere intention to make peace in the whole region of the Middle East, we are ready to reciprocate," the Iraqi minister said.

Shortly before he left Baghdad for Geneva, Aziz reaffirmed Iraq's position that it would not withdraw from Kuwait and said that Iraqi forces will remain in the emirate on Jan. 15, the

(Continued on page 5)

## Saudi Arabia denies Iraqi 'defections'

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia's defence minister Tuesday categorically denied reports by the Iranian news agency IRNA.

The withdrawal statement was released shortly after the arrival of Ibrahim.

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"They openly talk about long-term stationing of American soldiers," it said.

"Iran considers the presence of American forces in the region at variance with its national security interests and the excuse for this presence is the occupation of Kuwait... Iran demands that Iraqi forces leave Kuwait."

Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said last month that a regional solution was necessary.

"The two sides have... agreed

## King stresses peace option in talks with German leaders

FRANCE TUESDAY signalled what appeared to be an independent approach to resolve the Gulf crisis through negotiations offering Iraq an international peace conference on the Middle East in return for its withdrawal from Kuwait.

"I would remind you," Dumas said, "France supports an international conference since 1983 on the Israeli-Palestinian situation. So it is not a new position."

Pausing briefly, Dumas added for emphasis: "The government of the United States is well aware of this position."

Baker met with French officials for two hours just before Dumas made his statement on the steps of the Elysee Palace.

France's insistence on bringing Iraq to a conference on the initial problem has jarred the-led coalition against Iraq.

The French "point of view" has been examined again this morning and have made each other aware of our respective positions," Dumas said.

Baker said France and the United States were "total and complete agreement" that Iraq must quit Kuwait by Jan. 15.

He won support for this stand on Monday from Britain, Spain and Luxembourg, current president of the European Community.

But Mitterrand and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl have both pressed for a final peace effort before the U.N. deadline, now only a week away.

Vauzelles has been probing for ways to make a withdrawal more palatable to Iraq, including the offer of an international conference at some later stage to deal with the Palestinian problem.

(Continued on page 5)

French parliamentarian Michel Vauzelles, a Mitterrand confidant who met Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for over four hours at the weekend, suggested earlier Tuesday there would be a Franco-Arab initiative to avert war if Wednesday's talks in Geneva failed.

If the meeting was "but a supplementary closing, Europeans must not link themselves to this non-dialogue between Americans and Iraqis and spend our days remaining inert while war and peace hang in the balance," Vauzelles said.

Mitterrand has long suggested that the U.N. Security Council resolutions do not bind France from seeking on its own a diplomatic solution to the crisis. And France last week proposed, in conjunction with Germany, its own peace initiative, largely rejected at a meeting Friday of the European Community.

Vauzelles statement was the clearest in support of a separate peace effort outside the diplomatic efforts of the United States, which leads the multi-national coalition against Iraq.

Vauzelles said he hoped the Baker-Aziz meeting would succeed.

But if it did not, he said: "France would have the right to apply all its efforts right to the end — and that's Jan. 15 because it won't be possible after — to use all its diplomatic capacity to explore ways to peace."

Vauzelles declined to reveal what Saddam told him during a four-and-a-half-hour meeting Saturday.

But in television interviews he described the Iraqi leader as "a man

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## No official U.N. plan yet to evacuate staff from Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — There are no official plans for United Nations staff to be evacuated from Jordan as a precaution ahead of the Jan. 15 U.N. deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait or face war, but they have been advised of "voluntary repatriation" of their dependents, according to senior U.N. officials in Amman.

"As far as I know, no U.N. staff member has been asked to evacuate Jordan," said Touma Hazou, information officer for the Middle East and North Africa regional office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

"International staff of the U.N. have been advised to repatriate their families and dependents on a strictly voluntary basis," he told the Jordan Times.

Several other U.N. officials said they had no plans to leave Jordan since they have not been asked to do so by their respective heads.

A rough estimate put the total number of U.N. international staff members in Jordan at around 300, with an equal number of dependents and family members.

According to Hazou, about 100 family members and dependents of U.N. staff might leave Jordan in line with the advice.

"There are many others who have told me that they would stay on with their families in Jordan," he said.

A spokesman for Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in New York last Monday that the world body was considering evacuating the families of U.N. staff and non-essential U.N. personnel from the Middle East.

While it is not U.N. practice

to send dependents along with staffers to foreign postings, it is not uncommon among families to move on their own initiative to be with the U.N. employee.

Among the countries covered under "contingency plans," Giuliani said, are Jordan, Israel, the occupied territories, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon. But these would be mainly related to the U.N. Development Programme, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the U.N. Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

A senior UNDP official also said in Amman he was not aware of any evacuation plans for U.N. staff from Jordan. However, several other U.N. agencies said some of their international staffers were flying out this week. There was no immediate confirmation of assertions by some of the local staff that the international personnel were asked to leave Jordan ahead of Jan. 15.

In addition to UNDP, UNICEF, and UNRWA, the U.N. agencies or affiliated organisations which maintain a presence in Jordan include the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia.

"I am not aware of any travel advisory asking international staffers of the U.N. to leave Jordan," said a senior non-Jordanian official attached to a U.N. agency in Amman. "But I am aware that the U.S. order for all American nationals to leave Jordan and other countries in the area, and he himself was scheduled to leave "in a day or two to attend a meeting in Geneva."

recommendation, have given rise to fears among some U.N. staff and they might be leaving or have already left," said the official speaking on condition of anonymity.

According to U.N. procedures, international staff members who prefer to remain in areas of potential conflict after the headquarters asks them to leave are required to sign an undertaking stating that they are staying in the area on their own will and choice and absolving the world body of all responsibilities.

According to a U.N. source, "the headquarters is keeping a very watch on the situation in the region, and if it finds fit it can issue a travel advisory fitting the circumstances and situation."

The chief of mission of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Lucas Ajoloi, said he had not taken a "final decision" whether to move out his international staff out of Jordan.

IOM, which is not a U.N. agency, has been supervising the evacuation of foreigners, mostly Asians and North African Arabs, who transit through Jordan on their way home from Kuwait and Iraq.

Unconfirmed reports have said that all non-Arab members of the IOM office staff in Amman were scheduled to fly out by Jan. 10, raising concern that any major flow of evacuees from the war theatre through Jordan would not get enough attention.

But, Ajoloi said Tuesday: "There would definitely be an international presence at the IOM office here."

He said two international staffers of the organisation were arriving here Wednesday and he himself was scheduled to leave "in a day or two to attend a meeting in Geneva."



**GOING HOME:** A group of Vietnamese refugees are expected to be repatriated through Jordan from now until the middle of January catch flights home after leaving Iraq. At least 5,000 (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan).

## 'Brothers in armlessness' pitch camp for peace in Gulf

By Debbie Lovatt,  
Special to the Jordan Times

said he could "think of better vacations." Stock is a secular Jew.

AMMAN — As the troop build-up gains intensity in the Gulf so does support for the Gulf Peace Team Camp. The camp is situated two kilometres from the Iraq-Saudi border at a pilgrims rest stop on the road to Mecca.

About 40 peace activists are presently in the camp. They are of different nationalities, professions and ages; many are over sixty. Coordinators in Amman expect the number to rise to 200 to coincide with the Jan. 15 deadline set by the U.N. for Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait.

"Most of the people in the camp are old enough to remember the horrors of war; either Vietnam if they're American or World War II," said Bob Bossie, a Roman Catholic priest from Chicago, who is on his way to the camp.

Sidney Stock, 55, a chiropractor from Washington, is also on his way to Iraq. Stock, who celebrated his first wedding anniversary several days ago but is travelling alone,

"We're doing no more than hundreds of thousands of servicemen, some of whom are not even old enough to vote," added Watson.

Bossie thinks campaigns for peace are not as widespread or vociferous as he felt they should be because people in America have no historical consciousness. Also we have become an instant gratification society and we're tired of the tension."

Watson spoke of misunderstanding in the U.S. of this region and said: "People don't realise that Saddam Hussein is no different now than he was during the eight years the U.S. was supporting him."

Trace Hodgson, a political cartoonist from New Zealand who recently returned from the camp, said: "Morale is very high and everyone has a common commitment to armlessness."

One of the slogans of the Gulf Peace Team is "Brothers in Armlessness."

There are no families in the camp but following a story in Sawi Al Sha'a newspaper on Monday, a Jordanian family of four contacted Carol Boyce asking if they could go. Boyce is staying in Amman to coordinate the peace camp effort.

"We could have a peace conference tomorrow, with every Arab state, the Security Council and without Israel, which would accomplish nothing," Murphy said. "We cannot order Israel to do this or that," he asserted referring to the U.S. will not attack Iraq if it fulfills these concessions. "I suggest one way to assure Iraq would be to go to the Security Council," Murphy said.

Although he believes that Saddam Hussein, like President George Bush, does not want a war, Murphy said, the Iraqi leader would be "badly miscalculating," if he believed that Bush "is just bluffing when it comes to his commitment to his principles."

"He (Bush) is getting pushed by the hawks in the U.S., a minority, which says that if you do not fight him (Saddam) now you will have to fight him later," Murphy said.

## U.S. cannot twist Israel's arm into peace — Murphy

By Ghadeer Taher  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Former American officials are reputed for their criticism of successive U.S. administrations' handling of Middle East problems and have on many occasions volunteered advice on how Washington should streamline its policies.

But Richard Murphy, who served the Reagan administration, stands out as an exception. Three years after leaving office as the leading State Department expert on the Middle East, Murphy still nurtures the same approach which made the Reagan White House famous for its unmatched bias in favour of Israel.

Murphy, who was here in Amman this week to attend a roundtable on the impact of the Gulf crisis, is a strong proponent of the theory that the Arab World is sadly mistaken if it thinks that Washington can twist the Israeli arm into making peace with the Arabs.

Murphy, former assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian Affairs, said the goal of critics of American policy concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict "should be making the U.S. as zealous about (U.N. Security Council Resolution) 242 as we are about the resolutions over the Gulf."

While he envisages a sequential process towards resolving the 42-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict, Murphy also sees more decisive action in the Gulf. "I see a very high chance of war if Saddam Hussein is firm and final on his decision that he would never withdraw."

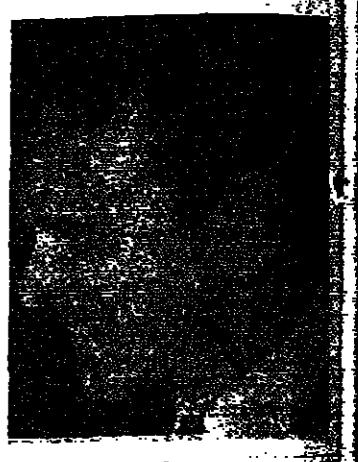
Murphy said there could not be any negotiation on two points — full withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the Kuwaiti regime. "These are not comply then we are in trouble."

However, he said, "U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, in his meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz in Geneva Wednesday, can reiterate an assurance that the U.S. will not attack Iraq if it fulfills these concessions. "I suggest one way to assure Iraq would be to go to the Security Council," Murphy said.

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Murphy placed the responsi-



Richard Murphy

bility of problems in the region squarely on Arab shoulders.

"There is a tendency in the area to blame problems in the region on foreign powers," he said.

He admitted that there was "great frustration in the area and a great deal of resentment against my country. It is a reality we have to realise and work with and demonstrate that we do care for a just peace."

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## U.S. worries in Pakistan prompt flight offer

ISLAMABAD (R) — The United States offered hundreds of its employees and their families Tuesday the option of going home because of worries about rising anti-American feelings in Pakistan.

Pakistan backs Kuwait against Iraq and has sent 5,000 troops to Saudi Arabia in a defensive role, but the presence of U.S. forces and their Western allies in the Gulf is deeply unpopular among Pakistanis and Islamic groups.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley told a packed meeting of American citizens in Islamabad they were not being ordered home but could leave voluntarily before the Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait, people who attended said.

An embassy statement said the offer was part of wider U.S. preparations to protect employees in case of war between Iraq and U.S.-led multinational forces assembled in the Gulf.

Relations between the United States and Pakistan have been strained since Washington suspended aid last October because of concerns that Pakistan is developing nuclear weapons.

Those attending the Islamabad meeting and others held in the provincial cities of Peshawar, Karachi, Quetta and Lahore were told by officials that if hostilities broke out they must remain locked in their homes. They should not try to reach their offices or the embassy.

U.S. officials were confident

## Combat reporting curbs intact

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Defence Department has released new guidelines for covering a possible war in the Gulf, retaining a controversial requirement that journalists submit war coverage to military review.

Four embassy staff died in 1979 when a Pakistani mob stormed the compound in Islamabad and set it ablaze a few weeks after Iranian students seized the U.S. mission in Tehran.

Two years ago a mob protesting against controversial author Salman Rushdie tried to attack the U.S. cultural centre in Islamabad and six people died when police opened fire.

U.S. sources said they did not expect a large number of the several hundred U.S. government employees and their families living in Pakistan to take up the offer.

"Everybody is being pre-emptively curtailed," one official. "I do not think the people are being pre-empted but they are concerned."

Americans have been ordered out of Jordan, Yemen and Saudi because of fears for their safety, and similar voluntary options are being offered to people living in other countries.

U.S. officials were confident

support for the estimated 335,000 U.S. troops stationed there.

"We want to send a signal around the world that there is a strong degree of national support behind U.S. troops, whether they are called home in peace or called to war," a spokesman for the group said.

Peace activists around the country planned candlelight vigils for the night of Jan. 14 and placard-waving demonstrations in city squares and mass prayer meetings on deadline day.

I have never been in a situation like this where so many people are opposed to war said Denis Doyon, coordinator for the American Friends Service Committee, a pacifist Quaker group based in Philadelphia.

The Washington demonstrations on Jan. 19 and 26 were planned separately by the largest umbrella groups opposing U.S. involvement in the Gulf, the National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East and the coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East.

A Dallas-based group that supports the massive U.S. deployment, "Operation Desert Aid" had hoped to gather in Washington on Jan. 15 but now seeks to have a resolution introduced in Congress urging Americans to make public shows of

The peace march from Philadelphia's city hall to the Liberty Bell will mark not only the Jan. 15 deadline but also the birthday of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King.

Several organisations representing American blacks have bristled at the use of the heroic black pacifist's birthday as the possible starting date for war.

"It adds a bit of irony to a potentially bloody situation," said the Reverend Joseph Lowry, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, one of several black organisations in the "Coalition of Conscience" calling for protests on Jan. 15.

The burdens of a war would be borne disproportionately by blacks, Lowry added, because the military includes a much greater percentage of blacks than in the American population as a whole and because a costly war would divert funds from domestic programmes benefiting poor blacks.

The demonstrations in Washington beginning on the eve of the deadline will include an all-night vigil at President George Bush's church across Lafayette Square from the White House.

The mother of all battles, to be fought by the holy fighters of the (Arab) Nation, will be a major battle for the liberation of all Third World peoples and the weakened ones on earth," the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said in an editorial.

"It will be battle against the imperialist domination practised by the U.S. administration — the tyranny of our time ... a battle to save the weakened peoples from ex-

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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PROGRAMME ONE

16:00 ..... Kordon ..... Programmes ..... 16:15 ..... Children's programmes ..... 16:25 ..... Educational programmes ..... 17:30 ..... News summaries ..... 18:00 ..... Cairo news telecasts ..... 18:30 ..... Local programmes ..... 19:00 ..... News in Arabic ..... 20:00 ..... News in English ..... 21:30 ..... Arabic programmes ..... 22:00 ..... News in Arabic ..... 22:45 ..... Play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ..... Documentary ..... 18:15 ..... News in French ..... 19:15 ..... Carte de Noël ..... 19:30 ..... News in Hebrew ..... 20:30 ..... After Henry ..... 21:10 ..... Our House ..... 21:30 ..... News in English ..... 22:00 ..... Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Amal Abdil Jaber ..... 614222 ..... Dr. Majid Badran ..... 614223 ..... Dr. Yehya Abd Rabbu ..... 726072 ..... Dr. Salem Al Daboubi ..... 776751 ..... Firdous Pharmacy ..... 616912 ..... Al Asema Pharmacy ..... 637057 ..... Nahrat Pharmacy ..... 6362672 ..... Al Salam Pharmacy ..... 6362300 ..... Yaacoub Pharmacy ..... 644945 ..... Shmeissani Pharmacy ..... 637660

IRBD:

Dr. Nabil Abul Ola ..... (—)

Al Sharq Pharmacy ..... (275823)

Water Authority ..... 680100

Min/max temp.

# Home News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1991 3

## Stranded Somalis may find deliverance in revolt at home

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The rebellion in Somalia, which reached the capital Mogadishu this week, may hold the key to resolving a major problem confronting about 450 Somalis who are stranded in Jordan after leaving Kuwait in August. The problem of fears of persecution upon return home by the regime of Muammar Siad Barre.

It appeared almost certain Tuesday that the United Somali Congress (USC), the leading rebel movement against President Siad Barre, was assuming control of Mogadishu after a week of fierce fighting.

Somali refugees in Jordan, mostly from the north where the rebellion took root several years ago, are hopeful that they would finally be able to go home along with their two million or so compatriots living in camps in Ethiopia if the USC assumes total control of the country.

"We are from the north and if we were to fly into Mogadishu nothing but persecution, and perhaps even death, awaited us at the hands of the Siad Barre regime," said a Somali, who declined to be named, but said he worked as an engineer in Kuwait prior to the Iraqi invasion of Aug. 2.

The Somali community in Kuwait totalled around 1,700 and about 1,000 of them fled the country after the invasion. But in Jordan, they faced a major problem: Most of them could not return home because of fears of persecution and others did not want to go back to their impoverished country of eight million where little chance awaited them of making a decent livelihood.

The only countries which allowed in Somali nationals without prior visas were Egypt, Sudan, Libya and Syria. The problems of the refugees from Kuwait were further compounded by the cancellation in June of their passports by the Somali government, which stipulated

that every Somali should obtain a new passport and informed all airlines that the old passports were no longer valid.

Of the 1,000 who arrived here since August, about 550 have left for Syria, Libya, Egypt and Sudan as well as other countries to which they had visas. Subsequently, Egypt and Syria banned free entry to Somali nationals, thus leaving the rest stranded in Jordan to seek help from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Women and children from the bulk of the community in Jordan. At least eight babies were born here. Many of the menfolk have their families staying in refugee camps in Ethiopia, but they could not join them because no international relief agency was willing to fly them. U.N. agencies do not fly refugees to destinations they have only tourist visas for.

According to relief officials, 154 of the Somalis are housed at the Azraq camp run by the Jordan Red Crescent Society (JRCS) and 294 are staying at buildings and hotels in and around Amman.

While the Azraq camp residents are looked after by the Red Crescent, the UNHCR helps those in Amman by paying rent and providing rations, according to UNHCR Chief of Mission Francesco Galindo.

"We have no magic solution to the problem," said Galindo. "The UNHCR is an organisation of the General Assembly and we have to work very much within the framework of our mandate and guidelines," he told the Jordan Times.

"We understand the problems of refugees and would like to help them in whatever way we can, but sometimes it becomes impossible for us because of the constraints and nature of the UNHCR mandate," he added.

He explained that the agency had to process each case individually and determine whether the person concerned had to be categorised as "refugee."

"Also, one has to see the

problem as part of the general picture of refugees all over the world," he said adding that about 15 million people were living outside their countries in refugee camps.

The Somalis now staying at Azraq camp moved there only after weeks of persuasion since they were reluctant to leave from Amman, where they believed they had a better chance of contacting relatives and friends who could address their immediate "no-destination" problem, said one of the leaders of the community who is living in Amman.

"We are also afraid for our small children, including the new-borns, and the aged who would be left to face severe weather in the desert," he told the Jordan Times.

Most of those at Azraq were moved there after their return to Jordan from the Kingdom's border with Syria, which denied them entry, in November.

Some of them were stranded in the no-man's-land between Jordan and Syria for two nights before being finally told that the Syrian government had revoked the free entry status of Somalis in the country," said an official of another U.N. agency in Amman.

Almost all the Somalis interviewed by the Jordan Times said they had to intention of staying in Jordan and seeking jobs in the Kingdom.

"All I want is to rejoin my family in a refugee camp in Ethiopia," asserted one of them, who said he was working as an accountant in Kuwait. "I have a visa for Ethiopia but it is at the Ethiopian embassy in Abu Dhabi; so in order to get the Ethiopian visa I have to obtain a visa for the United Arab Emirates," he added.

But, with the possible changes in Somalia, brought in by the rebellion, many hope that the situation would clear itself soon so that they could fly home.

"It is too early yet," commented the engineer. "Everything depends on what happens in the next few days."

Also, one has to see the

## Jordan cannot cope with new influx of evacuees without international aid

By Nar Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In case of a massive potential influx of about two million people into Jordan in the event of a war, the Kingdom would not be in a position to face it unless the international community renders its assistance up-front, according to Staffan de Mistura, (Sweden) special envoy of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who in turn is the personal representative of the U.N. secretary general for humanitarian issues that arise because of the Gulf crisis.

"We have to remember that Jordan received 850,000 people in a very short while, this summer — which in terms of the number of population is more or less equivalent to 55 million people in the United States and 13 million people in the United Kingdom. Nevertheless, Jordan managed to sort itself out on its own with the assistance of the U.N. and the Red Cross," de Mistura told the Jordan Times.

He added that now, with the

resources depleted and with an estimated two million evacuees coming into Jordan in case of war (1.3 million Egyptian, others Palestinians and Iraqis) "under the current circumstances, unless the international community does not put upfront some assistance, Jordan would not be in a position to face it," de Mistura asserted.

De Mistura has witnessed many evacuation programmes in his 20 years working for the U.N., supervising the evacuation process all over the world, including Vietnam.

He also followed up on Jordan's handling of the previous repatriation of evacuees last summer. "Jordan was outstanding in terms of rapidity, generosity and effectiveness," he said. "Not one single person got lost or died of disease," he added.

Asked about what Jordan should do if evacuees begin pouring into the country, he said: "We would hope Jordan would do exactly what it has already done. But what we do

know is that Jordan would not be in a position to do that unless we help them, because so many things are involved (tents, food, money, water). These cannot be fabricated out of nothing. The economy is already affected by the economic situation in the region," de Mistura affirmed.

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world, some of whom are spending \$30,000 per second on formidable war machines in the area. One should also think of using some of the resources on human suffering."

Asked about what the U.N. could do on its part to attract world attention on Jordan, de Mistura said that the secretary general of the U.N. had appointed Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan as his personal representative on humanitarian issues.

"The prince has been making several public statements, conferences, appeals, both in writing and verbally. He has visited the region and prepared plans of action," de Mistura said.

But he admitted that world attention had been focused on the military and political scenes "and they are saying 'we'll take care of it if afterwards'. The truth is, it cannot be taken care of afterwards because Jordan will not be in a position to face it. We must take care of it now."

De Mistura, who also met

with Salameh Hammad, head of a governmental committee for evacuees, the UNDP director, UNICEF director, "Medicins sans frontieres" and other experts in his three-day visit in the Kingdom, said the purpose of his tour was to attend the round-table conference and to assess the current state of readiness for a possible new influx of evacuees and the requirements needed for that.

"The next step for me is to report back to Prince Sadruddin, who will call a meeting on Friday, in Geneva. Together with the UNDRO coordinator, a special appeal to the international community will be made in order to assist countries affected by the crisis. In particular Jordan," he said. "The王子 has been making several public statements, conferences, appeals, both in writing and verbally. He has visited the region and prepared plans of action," de Mistura said.

According to de Mistura, "unfortunately, world attention tends to be focused on one thing at a time."

He added: "The tragedy of war will be among civilians and where will they flee? To Jordan. It is our duty to draw the attention to policy-makers all over the

## U.N. pledges to ensure Jordan is reimbursed

AMMAN (J.T.) — In an apparent reaction to Monday's announcement here that the Jordanian-Iraqi borders could be closed in the event of another influx of evacuees, the United Nations office here announced that it was doing all it could to secure further sums for Jordan to help it cover expenses, totalling more than \$50 million, spent on providing for the evacuees in Jordan over the past few months.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative Ali Atiga said in a statement that the United Nations appreciated Jordan's efforts to deal with the evacuees' issue and that the UNDP has so far paid Jordan almost 20 per cent of the total amount the Kingdom had to spend on the evacuees.

In his statement Dr. Atiga expressed hope that the United Nations would be able to come up with the remaining sums of funds needed to spend on the evacuees and noted that the United Nations Disaster and Relief Organisation (UNDRO) was intensifying efforts to raise contributions from various countries.

A plan worked out by the United Nations in cooperation with the Evacuee Welfare Committee has taken into consideration all the needs required to deal with a new wave of evacuees ranging between 50,000 and 150,000, but funds to deal with such numbers have not yet arrived," Dr. Atiga said.

Dr. Atiga expressed hope that funds would soon be forthcoming for the Jordanian government not to be forced to close the borders. He said the United Nations hoped that the borders would not be closed even if funds did not arrive by the time a new emergency occurs.

A statement issued at the end of a round-table in Amman over the weekend said that international contributions to alleviate Jordan's burden and suffering have been discouraging. Only \$12 million had been received by Jordan as reimbursement for the \$56 million the country had spent to assist the evacuees between August and November 1990," said the statement.

According to Mr. Hammad who described the evacuees problem in Jordan over the past month as a nightmare, more than 1.5 million persons passed through Jordan since Aug. 2, 1990 but 865,000 evacuees, mostly Asians, had to be housed at makeshift camps in the country.

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## Pressure on Bush grows as Jan. 15 approaches

By Jacqueline Frank  
Reuter

**WASHINGTON** — There is no compelling military reason for the United States to launch an attack against Iraq on Jan. 15, but analysts say political pressure will force President George Bush to decide on a military course soon after the U.N. deadline is passed.

The U.N. resolution orders Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to withdraw troops from Kuwait by Jan. 15, although the exact timing of the deadline has remained unclear.

Military and Middle East analysts told Reuters the timing of military action and the type of force used could vary widely.

"As long as there is a clear indication the United States is going to use military force it does not matter when in the military context," said Marvin Feuerwerger, senior strategic fellow of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Bush would have a window until late February or early March to launch an air and ground attack. After that, desert heat would severely hinder ground force action but would not inhibit an air strike.

But former U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown, who has favoured giving economic sanctions time to work against Iraq, said Bush has made so much of the Jan. 15 date that he will have to act within a couple of weeks.

"Militarily he doesn't have any stricture, but I have been one who felt he should give sanctions more time to work," Brown told Reuters.

Brown said considerations of public perception and international politics, not military strategy, may force Bush to act.

"If he doesn't do anything in the following few weeks, that will suggest he's lost resolve," Brown said.

By the deadline, the United

States is expected to have some 400,000 troops in the region — on land in Saudi Arabia and at sea in the Gulf and waters around the Arabian Peninsula.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has amassed 530,000 troops in southern Iraq and Kuwait, and has said he has the ability to conscript another 500,000.

U.S. forces, however, could be a further negotiating tool for Bush to impress upon Saddam the U.S. and allied determination to see an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

"It can be an air action. This would cause people to think some," Brown said. An air strike against the Iraqi air force and missiles is probably being considered in lieu of leading off with an all-out ground, naval and air action, he said.

Defence analyst Barry Bleckman said the air-strike option would give Bush time to convince Saddam to retreat without committing U.S. forces to a costly and bloody ground conflict.

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

Despite the threats of action if the deadline passes with no reaction from Saddam, Bleckman said "there's nothing compelling him (Bush) to act on the 16th."

"He doesn't want to be in a position, where if it turns out badly, he was forced militarily to take an action when reports from commanders in the field were that the troops were not ready," said Bleckman of Defense Forecasts Inc.

Iraqi ambassador to the United States Mohammad Al Mashar, speaking in a U.S. television interview, said the sabre-rattling would not force Iraq to withdraw.

"We will never do it under threats and intimidation," he said.

## Regent

(Continued from page 1)

general and on Jordan in particular.

"falls of black smoke resulting from a breakout of war will cover an area of 620,000 miles," he said. "It could reach South Asia and prevent monsoon rains, thus causing tens of millions of people to starve as a result of heating up and the lack of rain," he added.

The Crown Prince said Security Council Resolution 660, the first issued by the council on the Gulf crisis, should take into consideration Iraq's initiative of Aug. 12 calling for finding solutions to all problems of the region.

Prince Hassan stressed the need for finding a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis and praised a statement by the Saudi leadership which highlighted the importance of initiating Iraqi-Kuwaiti dialogue.

Prince Hassan also referred to the efforts made by His Majesty King Hussein to find a solution to the crisis.

He pointed out that the prime beneficiary of the crisis is the arms merchants and said that predictions about a rise in the oil

## West expects reprisals in case of war

By Jonathan Wright  
Reuter

**DHAHRAN**, Saudi Arabia — Iraq has given the clearest signal yet that it would encourage attacks on U.S. and other Western targets across the world if war broke out in the Gulf.

President Saddam Hussein, in a speech broadcast on Monday, said the battle would extend throughout the Arab World and wherever Arabs live.

"The theatre of our operations (includes) every straggler and fighter whose hand can reach out to harm ... aggressors in the whole world," he told his top army commanders.

Western diplomats in the Arab World said that in the first days of any conflict they would expect a sudden release of anger, expressed in demonstrations and attacks on symbols such as embassies, airline offices and cultural centres.

Western military sources say the main specific threat would come from two Baghdad-based Palestinian groups — the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) of Mohammed Abbas (Abu Abbas) and the Fatah Revolutionary Council of Abu Nidal, real name Sabri Banna.

Western diplomats said the greatest long-threat, however, was probably posed by a

myriad of Arab groups angered by U.S.-led military intervention in the Gulf — especially if Iraq crashed to humiliating defeat.

"It's a very real danger. If the post-crisis arrangements are unsatisfactory, instability and violence could run and run," said one diplomat.

Iraq's own personnel, such as embassy staff and airline employees, are already under close surveillance in Western countries but do not have the same experience as the two Palestinian groups in clandestine operations, they say.

British expelled eight Iraqi embassy staff and 67 civilians on Thursday, citing national security and Iraqi threats.

The PLF is firmly established in Baghdad, where Abu Abbas spends most of his time. He masterminded the 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro in the Mediterranean.

Although a constituent part of Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), his group takes orders from the Iraqi leadership, PLO sources say.

Its last operation was an attempted attack on the Israeli beach last May. Timed to coincide with an Arab summit in Baghdad, the raid sabotaged a PLO-American dialogue and indirectly undermined the main hope for progress towards Middle East peace.

force the will of the United Nations," he said.

"It is a deadline for Saddam Hussein to choose — to choose peace over war," he added.

Bush urged his allies to resist pressure to provide Iraq with a face-saving formula.

"The danger of this course should be clear to all," he said. "The price of peace now on Saddam's terms will be paid many times over a greater sacrifice, in suffering."

In Geneva, Azziz said he had come in good faith and with an open mind for talks with Baker.

"It is premature to comment on those talks at this moment but I would like to say that I have come in good faith. I am open-minded and I am ready to conduct positive, constructive talks with Secretary Baker," he said on arrival in Geneva.

A report from Luxembourg, which holds the rotating presidency of the European Community (EC), said the King was due there Wednesday for talks on the Gulf crisis. Then he is expected to fly to Italy.

## King

(Continued from page 1)

The King is accompanied on the visit by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was also in Bonn Tuesday, but it was not immediately known whether the King was seeing him. Baker was to fly to Geneva late Tuesday for talks Wednesday with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz.

A report from Luxembourg, which holds the rotating presidency of the European Community (EC), said the King was due there Wednesday for talks on the Gulf crisis. Then he is expected to fly to Italy.

## Paris

(Continued from page 1)

who gives the impression of exceptional calm and who seems perfectly aware that war would be a truly terrible ordeal for his people."

"He seems perfectly aware of the stakes but has a sort of determination that in my opinion justly deserves to be explored," said Vauzelles, Mitterrand's former spokesman.

Vauzelles briefed Mitterrand on his Baghdad visit immediately after returning to Paris Sunday.

"We should wait and do nothing to impede our American friends," Vauzelles said, but if Baker and Azziz did not find a solution there would be six days left to avert war.

Bush, in televised remarks to nations in the anti-Iraq coalition, ruled out any compromise over U.N. demands that Iraq pull out by Jan. 15.

The purpose of declaring this deadline was to give Saddam fair warning: Withdraw from Kuwait without condition and without delay, or at any time, or after that date, face a coalition ready and willing to impose all means necessary to cap-

ture them.

After crossing, Qanu, a teacher, told reporters: "We urge the use of arms against the Jews. Israel should be wiped out and an Islamic state should be established in Palestine."

Alami, an engineer, said: "Hamas seeks to increase resistance and (armed) operations against the occupation... attacks will continue until the will of the Palestinian people to establish a state is achieved."

Lidawi, a college student, said: "Israel does not take into consideration any humanitarian action... the expulsion is a political decision."

Tuesday's expulsions increased to 62 the number of activists expelled by the Israeli authorities during 37 months of the Palestinian revolt in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) issued a statement in Tel Aviv criticizing the "expulsion of the four Palestinian activists who breached

the will of the United Nations," he said.

He urged his allies to resist pressure to provide Iraq with a face-saving formula.

"It is premature to comment on those talks at this moment but I would like to say that I have come in good faith. I am open-minded and I am ready to conduct positive, constructive talks with Secretary Baker," he said on arrival in Geneva.

Azziz said Baker should not come to Geneva threatening war but should arrive in a spirit that could lead to peace.

"If they (the United States) would like to avoid (war) and reach a peaceful settlement they have to prepare themselves — they have to come to Geneva in a spirit which creates the possibility of bringing about peace."

But Baker was headed for Geneva with an assertion that the U.S. had the full support of the international community if it launched a war against Iraq.

The international community is very solidly unified in the view that there must be full implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, Baker said after meeting German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Bonn.

Baker, who began the day in London and made a three-hour stopover in Paris, made no statement after meeting Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

"I think it is important that we all do what we can to convince (Iraqi leader) Saddam Hussein that the international community is indeed serious when it says that, in the absence of a withdrawal, force might well be used," he said.

"We would all prefer a peaceful political solution and if one could

possible, counterweight to U.S. bias towards Israel in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Some Palestinians, who are automatically Iraqi citizens, would certainly fight in the Iraqi army but a PLO official in Tunis said on Sunday the organisation had not even discussed formal participation in a Gulf war.

In Tunisia, where public opinion is overwhelmingly pro-Iraqi, usually peaceful citizens have been heard to threaten individual acts of violence if war breaks out.

Saddam referred to these sentiments in his speech on Sunday night. The war exists "in Algeria, Jordan, Egypt and inside every heart and conscience of any Syrian" he said.

One of the Iraqis expelled from Britain said Iraq would not need to incite violence.

"All Western countries will have targets to be hit. Every Arab person living abroad will do that. It is not a matter of Iraq pushing them, it is a matter of belief," he said.

Many European countries have advised their citizens to leave Jordan and Sudan before Jan. 15, the U.N. deadline for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

One question which remains unanswered is how Arab governments will handle the outburst of anger, which the PLO sees as the best

occur before midnight on the 15th, we'd be delighted," he told journalists.

In other Gulf developments:

— Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said meanwhile that an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait is not enough.

"If Iraq withdraws from Kuwait but no arrangements are made to remove the Iraqi threat to the region, they (the U.S.-led coalition) will have achieved nothing," foreign ministry officials quoted Levy as telling Israeli reporters Tuesday.

The United States has demanded only an Iraqi withdrawal, but Israel wants Iraq disarmed or constrained by buffer zones or international supervision of its arsenal in the post-Gulf crisis Middle East, Israeli diplomatic sources said.

"Well, I don't think that there will be a change from now to the 15th. We are not going to yield to pressure. We are not going to act in an atmosphere of threat."

Azziz said Baker should not come to Geneva threatening war but should arrive in a spirit that could lead to peace.

"If they (the United States) would like to avoid (war) and reach a peaceful settlement they have to prepare themselves — they have to come to Geneva in a spirit which creates the possibility of bringing about peace."

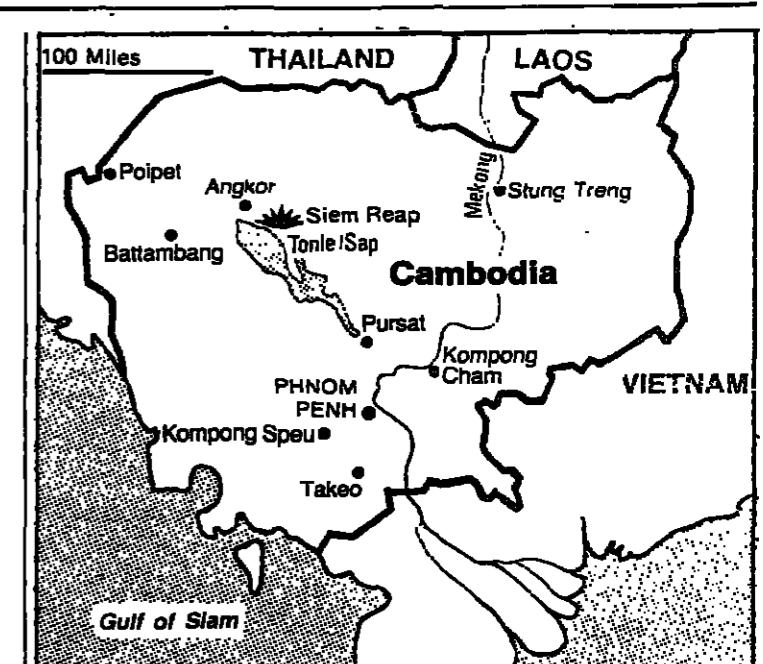
But Baker was headed for Geneva with an assertion that the U.S. had the full support of the international community if it launched a war against Iraq.

The international community is very solidly unified in the view that there must be full implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, Baker said after meeting German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Bonn.

Baker, who began the day in London and made a three-hour stopover in Paris, made no statement after meeting Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

"I think it is important that we all do what we can to convince (Iraqi leader) Saddam Hussein that the international community is indeed serious when it says that, in the absence of a withdrawal, force might well be used," he said.

"We would all prefer a peaceful political solution and if one could



## As Gulf war looms, time runs out for Cambodia too

By Angus MacSwan  
Reuter

**BANGKOK** — As the United Nations focuses on its deadline for war in the Gulf, its efforts to bring peace to Cambodia look unlikely to stop a new round of fighting.

The Phnom Penh government and its guerrilla opponents have been beating the drums of war since a round of peace talks in Paris ended inconclusively just before Christmas.

Peacebrokers have given warning that the U.N. peace plan, drafted with unprecedented consensus by the five major powers on the U.N. Security Council, is the only hope to end the turmoil that has plagued Cambodia in shifting permutations for 20 years.

Should the United States and its allies go to war against Iraq after Jan. 15 the deadline the U.N. has set for Baghdad to quit Kuwait, international concern will drift from the problems of a small country of eight million people, diplomats in Bangkok said.

"The Cambodians must realize there is not an indefinite time limit on this offer," said one.

In recent months whole villages have trudged into U.N.-aided refugee camps along the Thai border as the rival armies blast away at each other with Chinese and Soviet-supplied weapons.

Heng Samrin, president of the Vietnam-allied government in control of most of Cambodia, said on Saturday his army would carry the war to the guerrillas to gain a decisive victory.

Phnom Penh had made enough concessions at the negotiating table, he said.

Khieu Samphan, nominal leader of Pol Pot's radical Khmer Rouge, at new year urged his guerrilla forces to step up their attacks. They threatened to attack Battambang city, lying on major transport routes in western Cambodia, and told its citizens to evacuate.

Clashes have occurred from the Thai border to north of the vast Tonle Sap Lake, through the southern central province of Kompong Speu and in Kompong Thom, north of the capital.

It says there is a risk the Khmer Rouge could grab power again.

The brunt of the fighting will still be borne by the Khmer Rouge, which has been trying to build support and establish supply lines in rural areas while the government has held the towns and the many highways, military analysts say.

Whether, despite its threats, it has the power or inclination to seize a big city, is open to question.

"In purely military terms the Khmer Rouge threat has clearly been overstated," wrote American Cambodia expert Stephen Hedder in a recent paper.

"It is still not a position to mount the kind of strategic offensive... it launched successfully in 1975".

The Khmer Rouge's future is still at issue in the peace plan, which aims to bring the guerrillas in from the jungles to the city and to hold elections under U.N. auspices.

Phnom Penh says this will reward the radical communists whose 1975-79 rule oversaw the deaths of one million Cambodians before it was ended by a Vietnamese invasion.

## Second Hungarian breaks world record at swimming championships

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Tamas Darnyi recorded Hungary's second world record in two days at the World Swimming Championships Tuesday, while the heavily favoured U.S. team was shut out.

Darnyi shaved 2.39 seconds off his own world mark in the men's 400-metre individual medley, lowering it to four minutes, 12.36 seconds. He joined countryman Torsten Rozen in the 100 breaststroke as a world record-setter at the championships.

Abby, the only consolation for the United States was an American record of 4:15.21 by Eric Namensik as he chased Darnyi home.

The United States did get its second gold medal of the championships, when twins Karen and Sarah Josephson won the synchronised swimming duet with a world best of 199.762 points.

In the men's 3-metre springboard diving, Tan Liangqi of China led qualifiers with 637.08 points. Albin Killat of Germany trailed the Olympic silver medalist with 608.37 points.

Olympic gold medalist Anthony Nesty pipped Michael Gross for the men's 100 metres butterfly title.

Nesty, the first person from Surinam to win an Olympic med-

al with his upset victory at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, finished powerfully to edge the towering German by 0.02 seconds in a championship record time of 53.29 seconds.

Gross, returning for a final fling after temporarily quitting following the 1988 Olympics, led clearly at the turn from American Matt Biondi but could not deny Nesty's challenge on the second length.

Gross clocked 53.31 for the silver, also inside the world championship mark of 53.54 set by American Pablo Morales in 1986. It was his 10th World Championship medal.

Vacheslav Kulikov of the Soviet Union, who celebrated his 20th birthday Monday, took the bronze in 53.74.

Olympic and World Championship silver medalist Biondi finished sixth in 53.97.

Gross, who won the event at the 1984 Olympics, was double world champion at 200 freestyle and 200 butterfly in both 1982 and 1986 and seeks an unprecedented third 200 butterfly triumph Saturday.

Sixteen-year-old Hayley Lewis gave home fans something to cheer by upstaging American Janet Evans to win Australia's first title of the championship in the women's 200 metres freestyle relay final for 4:11.60.

European bronze medallist

Lewis, denied a gold medal by 0.01 seconds in Monday's 400 metres individual medley, emphatically made amends and triumphed over her old idol Evans by 0.19 seconds in a thrilling finish.

Lewis, who won five gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland last January, responded to the clamours of the crowd to win in two minutes 0.48 seconds.

Evans and Denmark's Mette Jacobsen both touched within half a second of the Australian silver and bronze.

American Nicole Haislett, winner of Monday's 100 freestyle, was the fastest qualifier but had to settle for fourth in the final in 2:01.13.

Lewis almost failed to reach the final, squeezing in as the slowest qualifier and starting in the outside lane eight.

Japan's Suzy Chiba, who was edged out of the final, raced away with the B final in 2:00.58 — a time which would have given her the silver medal in the main event.

Yelena Volkova gave the Soviet Union their first gold of the championships, winning the women's 200 metres breaststroke with a storming finish.

The United States were second in 2:14.87 and Italy third in 2:17.18.

Volkova denied Australia a second gold Tuesday, beating Linley Frame, the fastest qualifier, by nearly half a second.

Volkova swam in an outside lane after returning the second-slowest qualifying time, improving dramatically in the final to win in two minutes 29.53 seconds.

Frame took the silver in 2:30.02 and early pace-setter Jana Doerries of Germany the bronze in 2:30.14.

German Alexandra Haenel led for much of the race but faded to fifth on the last length.

Gross anchored the newly-united German team to victory in the men's 4X200 metres freestyle relay final for its 11th medal in three World Championships.

Gross resisted the challenge of American Doug Gjertsen to lead his team home in 7:13.50, inside the 7:15.91 World Championship mark set by East Germany.

The East Germans beat Gross and his West German team mates into second place at the last World Championships in Madrid by just 0.05 seconds.

This time a combined German quartet linked Peter Sitt, Stefan Pfeiffer and Gross of the West with Steffen Zesner of the East.

The United States were second in 7:14.87 and Italy third in 7:17.18.

## Johnson will not recapture old speed — former coach

TORONTO (R) — Ben Johnson, who returns to international sprinting Friday after a two-year drug ban, will not recapture his old speed, according to his former coach Charlie Francis.

Francis coached Johnson for 12 years before the Canadian was positively dope tested for steroids after winning the 1988 Seoul Olympic 100 metres final. Johnson, now 29, runs over 50 metres at the Hamilton Indoor Games Friday.

"Ben's not going to be able to run clean as fast as he ran before," Francis said in an interview.

"He can still run world class times. But can he break his old world records?

"If I thought he could do that without steroids, why the hell would I give anybody drugs in the first place?"

Francis said he thought Johnson would still feel some effects of the steroids, used to help build up muscle and speed recovery from injury.

"You don't lose everything you gain from steroids, that's for sure," Francis said. "But the benefits would be very small by now."

Francis said he had timed

Johnson in training recently and figured he could still clock 6.55 seconds for the 60 metres. Johnson was stripped of his world record of 6.41 seconds by the International Amateur Athletic Federation at its 1989 congress.

"Ben hasn't forgotten everything he learned in 12 years," Francis said. "I've seen flashes of his old self."

Johnson's current coach, American Loren Seagrave, unsurprisingly disagrees with Francis.

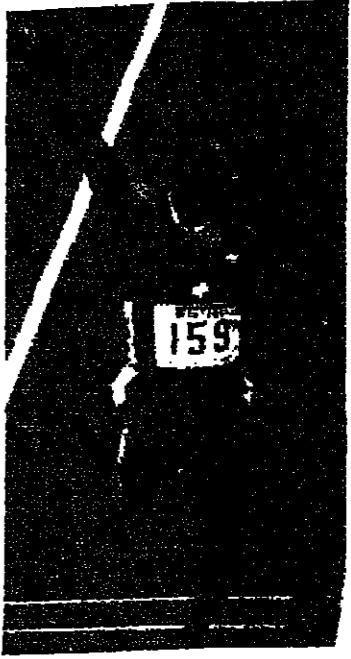
"Right now I'm feeling good. I'm really happy to be racing again," said Johnson, who would not predict the outcome of the race.

Johnson set a 50-metre world indoor record of 5.5 seconds in 1987 and was unbeaten indoors between 1985 and 1988.

He has passed six drug tests since he was stripped of his Olympic 100 metres gold medal, when the latest a few weeks ago when doping control officers from the International Amateur Athletic Federation turned up in Toronto to administer an unannounced test.

Johnson admitted he felt a lot of pressure as he prepares for competition.

"So far I can handle it, but Loren will help take the (media)



Ben Johnson  
pressure off me."

Seagrave refused to disclose Johnson's practice times but said: "His training times show he is competitive."

The coach said winning the first race was not important.

## Complaints add to Real Madrid's woes

By Reuters

COMPLAINTS by striker Sebastiano Losada about his treatment at the hands of temporary coach Alfredo Di Stefano added to struggling Real Madrid's woes Tuesday.

Losada was angry at being left on the bench last weekend when the club, trailing Spanish league leaders Barcelona by eight points, won 2-0 at Sporting De Gijon.

Losada, an impressive striker who has been little used since he was signed in 1988, said he was beginning to look elsewhere. His talents are admired by Barcelona's Dutch coach Johan Cruyff, among others.

"I have to think that football does not start and finish at Real Madrid. There are other teams. If there is one where I can play and be happy..." said Losada.

Real Madrid players have offered their support to chairman Ramon Mendoza, who is seeking a vote of confidence from shareholders because of the team's poor results this season.

Mendoza, a lawyer and businessman, took over Spain's top club in 1985 and after a re-election in 1988 was due to carry on until 1992, but the club's failure to win more than nine of its 17 games this season has brought him under fire.

The club said Monday Mendoza and his management team would offer to resign at a share-

holders' meeting later this month. They could then seek a vote of confidence at new elections to the board.

Real goalkeeper Paco Buyo said the chairman, who is popular among players, had the team's full support. "The chairman has our complete confidence. What he does is fine with us," he said.

In Italy, controversy rages over refereeing standards after a rash of dubious decisions Sunday.

Under the headline "football hits back — this will not do, referees," leading sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport published a strava poll of leading managers Tuesday, who are united in calling for a more even application of this season's tough new rules against foul play.

"We need to be certain and above all we need to see that all are equal in front of the law," Sampdoria manager Vujadin Boskov.

### EUROPEAN SOCCER

Sampdoria's Roberto Mancini and Torino's Silvano Benedetti were sent off for fighting Sunday.

There was controversy, too, in the match between Juventus and Napoli which saw the expulsion of Napoli goalkeeper Giovanni Galli.

"The referee's error was clear for all to see," said Napoli mana-

ger Alberto Bigon. "Galli should not have been sent off. I think it's a problem of application of the laws."

There were also heated arguments and protests in the match between Inter and Genoa where Inter were awarded a penalty after 25 minutes and Genoa had a goal disallowed.

Hans Dorfner, who won seven caps for West Germany but could not secure a first-team place at Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich, has been transferred to Nuremberg for more than two million marks (\$1.3 million).

"The first thing is to try and help them avoid relegation," said the midfielder who will return to the club he first started for from 1984-86 before moving to Munich where he won three championships.

Nuremberg are languishing second from bottom of the Bundesliga with only three victories in 16 games at the halfway point of the season.

Romania's international midfielder Daniel Timofte joined German Bundesliga side Bayer Uerdingen Monday.

Timofte, previously with Dinamo Bucharest, signed a contract with Uerdingen until June 1994.

In England Brian McClair settled Manchester United's first night nerves with a 73rd minute winner as the holders began their defence of the English FA Cup.

Cup with a 2-1 victory over Queen's Park Rangers Monday.

Scotland international McClair pounced for his 12th goal of the season after collecting a pass from Mark Hughes. The goal followed a surging run by captain Bryan Robson.

It gave United their expected victory over depleted first division strugglers Rangers, but their passage into the fourth round and a home tie with near-neighbours Bolton was anything but smooth.

Hughes volleyed the holders ahead in the 18th minute as they made a storming start. But United, beaten only once in 16 games, let Rangers off the hook.

The London side, missing several key players through illness and injury, battled back and took advantage of an error by United keeper Les Sealey to equalise five minutes before halftime.

Sealey left his line in a bid catch Andy Sinton's cross from the left. But he failed to get to the ball first, leaving Danny Maddix to head over him into an empty net.

Minor league Woking, who caused the biggest upset of the third round Saturday by winning 4-2 away to second division West Bromwich, have asked the Football Association for permission to play their home fourth round tie against Everton at the Liverpool club's Goodison Park ground.

### Mutt'n'Jeff



### Andy Capp



### Peanuts



## Johnson will not recapture old speed — former coach

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Johnson's current coach, American Loren Seagrave, unsurprisingly disagrees with Francis.

"Right now I'm feeling good. I'm really happy to be racing again," said Johnson, who would not predict the outcome of the race.

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He has passed six drug tests since he was stripped of his Olympic 100 metres gold medal, when the latest a few weeks ago when doping control officers from the International Amateur Athletic Federation turned up in Toronto to administer an unannounced test.

Johnson admitted he felt a lot of pressure as he prepares for competition.

"So far I can handle it, but Loren will help take the (media)

"The last two or three days I've felt very edgy and very excited that I have a future to look forward to again," Johnson said at a brief news conference following his daily workout.

Johnson, who turned 29 in December, is entered in the 50-metre dash where he will face stiff competition from a highly-ranked trio of American sprinters — Andre Cason, Mike Marsh and Dennis Mitchell.

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"The last word remains with Francis, who believes other leading sprinters still use steroids.

"The number one goal for Ben now, given that he has one hand tied behind his back because he's not using steroids, is to maximise his income," Francis said.

Johnson has said that he was "edgy and excited" as he prepares for his first competition in 27 months.

Francis said he had timed

Johnson in training recently and figured he could still clock 6.55 seconds for the 60 metres. Johnson was stripped of his world record of 6.41 seconds by the International Amateur Athletic Federation at its 1989 congress.

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## Economy

# Banks cut lending to E. Europe and Third World in early 1990

**BASLE**, Switzerland (R) — Banks in leading industrialised countries substantially cut their lending to eastern Europe and the Third World but raised lending to developed nations in the first half of 1990, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said Tuesday.

Overall lending to countries outside their area by banks in the Group of 10 major countries plus Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg and Spain, fell by \$23 billion or 3.5 per cent to \$633 billion.

The BIS, which acts as central bank to the world's central

banks, said in a half-yearly report on bank lending that total loans to eastern Europe contracted by \$5.1 billion, reflecting a rapid deterioration in the credit-standing of some eastern European countries.

This more than reversed a \$3.3 billion expansion in the preceding six months. Lending to Soviet Union alone fell by \$3.5 billion.

Banks' claims on Latin America fell by a record \$22.8 billion or 13 per cent during the first half of 1990, with all major debtor countries sharing in the contraction.

By far the largest change was a

\$12.7 billion or 21 per cent drop in banks' claims on Mexico, due to the implementation of the Brady plan for relief on \$48.5 billion of its debt.

The Brady plan, named after its creator, U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, surfaced in the spring of 1989 as a way to tackle problems with medium and long-term debt.

A large number of banks exchanged outstanding claims on Mexico for bonds issued by the Mexican government at a discount of 35 per cent, the BIS said.

Lending to Brazil, which re-

mained in arrears, contracted by \$6.2 billion, while overall credits to developing nations in Asia contracted by \$1 billion.

Against the trend, credits to Thailand and China rose by \$1.1 billion and \$1 billion, respectively.

Developed countries outside the banks' area were the only group to attract a substantial amount of fresh loans.

New lending to these countries accelerated to \$6.1 billion from \$3.6 billion in the second half of 1989, with new credits to Australia alone amounting to \$2.5 billion, mostly taken up by companies in the private sector.

# Oman aims to spend \$24 billion in new 5-year development plan

**NICOSIA** (R) — Oman, banking in record high oil revenues, plans to spend 10 per cent more in a new five-year development plan it unveiled Monday.

But Oman's chief economic official said the Gulf Arab state would transfer 15 per cent of its net oil income — main source of revenue — to a special contingency fund in the 1991-95 plan from five per cent in previous years.

"The fourth five-year plan aims at boosting the country's financial position," Omani deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, Qais Abdul Monim Al Zawawi told a news conference in Muscat carried by the Omani News Agency.

He forecast total government revenues at nearly \$5.7 billion (riyals \$22.20 billion) compared with \$6.8 billion (riyals \$18.07 billion) during the previous 1986-90 plan.

Spending would rise 10.2 per cent to 9.45 billion riyals (\$24.48 billion) during the new plan

compared with the old one, he said.

Oman's oil production rose steadily in the 1980s to reach a record high of around 700,000 barrels per day (b/d). But its oil reserves of around 4.3 billion barrels are limited compared with its Gulf neighbours which own nearly two-thirds of the world's proven reserves.

Zawawi said the new plan would focus on boosting industry, agriculture and fisheries, and developing the rural provinces.

He said the government projected oil prices to average around \$20 a barrel during the next five years. They are presently hovering at around \$25 a barrel because of the threat of war in the Gulf.

Asked on what bases the 20

figure was estimated, the agency, received in Cyprus quoted him as saying: "This is a reasonable price after taking into consideration all events, not only in the Gulf region."

Zawawi said any rise in oil

prices above \$20 a barrel would be transferred to an emergency fund to help cushion any economic problems.

"It would also finance part of the budget deficits and other important projects," he added.

Oman last week announced a four per cent increase in its 1991 budget, boosting spending to 1.81 billion riyals (\$47.1 billion).

The new budget gave a deficit of 237 million riyals (\$61.5 million).

He estimated annual growth rates in the non-oil sector to run at around 7.3 per cent in the light of progress made in the industrial, agricultural and fisheries sectors.

The plan envisages the per capita income to increase from \$2,348 riyals (\$6,081) to \$2,685 riyals (\$6,954) in 1995, he said.

Zawawi said the new plan would create around 161,000 new job opportunities and about 60 per cent of new government spending would be in areas outside the capital Muscat.

## U.S. shows reluctance to let large banks fail

**WASHINGTON** (R) — The federal bailout of the Bank of New England has underscored the U.S. government's reluctance to allow major banks to fail without protecting major depositors.

Federal banking regulators seized control of three banks owned by the Bank of New England Corporation Sunday in a move that protected all deposits, including about \$2 billion in accounts above the \$100,000 deposit insurance limit.

The three subsidiary banks, which had a total of about \$23 billion in assets, will now operate under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) until they are sold to private investors.

Already Bankamerica Corporation and Banc One Corporation have expressed an interest in purchasing the banks.

Federal regulators said they felt compelled to cover all deposits in order to restore public confidence and protect the stability of the banking system in New England which is in the grip of a severe economic recession.

The administration is expected to unveil a package later this month that will call for sweeping reforms of the U.S. banking system and limits on deposit insurance. Officials want to avoid a repeat of the savings and loan disaster that is expected to cost taxpayers up to \$500 billion.

Congress is also expected to take up deposit insurance reform as part of legislation to refinance the banking system and limits on deposit insurance.

But plans to limit federal deposit insurance coverage have some of the thousands of small banks up in arms. They are afraid depositors would flock to the major banks in an environment where the government has shown a willingness to protect all depositors of the nation's biggest banks.

The bankruptcy filing will not affect the banks because the parent company no longer owns them.

The bailout is expected to cost the FDIC about \$2.3 billion and it raised fresh questions about the difficulties the administration of President George Bush faces in trying to reform the deposit insurance system and

## U.S. budget deficit seen \$50b higher

**WASHINGTON** (R) — The 1991 U.S. budget deficit is likely to be \$50 billion more than previously estimated because the recession will cut tax revenues, the Washington Post said in its Sunday edition.

The Post said Bush administration figures now put the budget for the fiscal year that began last Oct. 1 at between \$300 billion and \$335 billion.

The deficit for the \$1.2 trillion budget had been estimated as at least \$250 billion, counting the cost of the bailout for failed savings and loan institutions.

That estimate did not include the estimated \$30 billion for the U.S. military deployment in the Gulf, a figure that would go much higher if there was a war with Iraq, the Post said.

In addition to reducing tax revenues, a recession increased costs for federal welfare programmes such as food stamps and aid to dependent children, the newspaper said.

Workers who lose their jobs stop taxes and get unemployment benefits.

The U.S. unemployment rate topped six per cent in December, and most economists say the United States is in a recession.

Congress approved the budget last October after a bitter battle with the administration over a budget deficit reduction plan.

The final plan calls for \$493 billion in deficit cuts over five years through higher taxes and spending cuts.

The mood was gloomy on the Tokyo share market ahead of Wednesday's last-ditch talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz.

"Basically, the markets have succumbed to fears of war in the Middle East," said Benedict Ivey of Credit Lyonnais Securities (Japan).

The key 225-share Nikkei index closed down 838.73 points or 3.53 per cent to 22,897.84, ending below 23,000 for the first time since Dec. 6, 1990. Roughly

## Iran offers Gulf goods safe haven

**NICOSIA** (R) — Iran Tuesday offered storage facilities to business worried that their goods in Gulf countries might be destroyed in any war over Kuwait.

Customs director Morteza Mohammad Khan said the offer, effective immediately, resulted from a November government directive to set up depots in four southern ports.

Goods could be kept for up to 18 months in bonded warehouses or open-air facilities at Bandar Khomenei and Bushehr on the Gulf coast and Jask and Chah Bahar on the Gulf of Oman, Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted him as saying.

Mohammad Khan said Iran had received repeated requests from businessmen looking for a safe haven for their goods. The report did not say how much Iran would charge for the service.

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## Pan Am files for bankruptcy

**NEW YORK** (R) — Pan Am Corp., starved for cash while seeking a partner to keep its Pan American World Airways flying, said Tuesday it had filed for protection under U.S. bankruptcy law.

The company said its airline subsidiaries will maintain full flight schedules and customer services worldwide while it reorganises.

The New York-based company, a pioneer in air travel, has been negotiating with Trans World Airlines Inc (TWA) over a \$375 million buy-out offer.

Pan Am said it would consider

a takeover if TWA provided a bridge loan to keep the ailing Pan Am flying while the deal was completed. But TWA said it would provide financing only if cash-hungry Pan Am first files for bankruptcy, preserving TWA's claim to the cash.

Under the bankruptcy law, a company is protected from its creditors while it reorganises its finances.

Pan Am said the filing was made in federal court in New York. It said it would provide additional details later at a news conference.

## War drums batter stocks

**TOKYO** (R) — Worries of war in the Gulf pushed most Asian bourses lower Tuesday while the dollar gained on its status as a safe-haven investment.

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230 million shares changed hands.

Tokyo adopted a bearish mood from the opening, with the Nikkei dropping 297.49 points below Monday's close of 23,796.57 in the first 15 minutes of trade.

The dollar ended firmer as fears of war in the Middle East gripped the market, although activity was quiet ahead of Wednesday's U.S.-Iraqi talks.

The U.S. currency ended at 136.30 yen and 1.5375 marks after closing at 136.00 and 1.5340 in New York Monday.

"You've seen a sort of flight to quality. It's too risky to hold yen in light of war fears and Soviet concerns have kept us away from the mark," said Hiroshi Murata at Sumitomo Bank.

The dollar was supported by buying on its safe-haven status, while fears of political turmoil in the Soviet Union continued to overshadow the mark, traders said.

In regional share markets, Australian stocks slid to their fourth straight closing loss after a day of see-saw trade. The All Ordinaries index dipped 2.6 points to 1236.9.

Taiwan stock prices fell across the board in sluggish trade as fears of war swept through the market. The weighted index closed 215.54 points, or 5.1 per cent, lower at 3,975.53 com-

pared with Monday's 4,191.07 finish.

Share prices in Singapore ended the morning session broadly lower as investors liquidated their positions on war fears.

Traders said a sharp 43-point fall on Wall Street Monday and Tokyo's more than 600 point drop by midday Tuesday also brought nervous selling on the local bourse.

Hong Kong stocks finished

lower in dull and directionless trade following early losses on the back of Tokyo's sharp decline.

Oil prices, which closed up

nearly \$3 a barrel in the United States Monday, stayed firm in cautious Asian trade.

North Sea Brent Blend, the world's most widely traded crude, was quoted at \$26.50 a barrel for February, up from \$26.25 in late U.S. trading Monday.

The fall on Wall Street Monday was the fourth straight down session for the market, bucking the normal trend for stocks to rise in January.

The Dow Jones industrial average shed 43.32 points, or 1.69 per cent, to close at 2,522.77.

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## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

**TOKYO** — Stocks finished sharply lower amid gloom over U.S.-Iraqi talks on the Gulf crisis. The Nikkei index closed 838.73 points down at 22,897.84 — below 23,000 for the first time since Dec. 6.

**SYDNEY** — The market slid to its fourth consecutive loss after a day of see-saw trade — highlighted by sharp falls in offshore markets. The all ordinaries index dipped 2.6 points to 1,236.9.

**HONG KONG** — Stocks finished lower in dull and directionless late trade. The Hang Seng closed 17.10 points down at 3,009.42.

**SINGAPORE** — Prices fell over a broad front in cautious trading ahead of U.S.-Iraqi talks. The Straits Times industrial index of 30

Singapore blue chips closed 14.11 points down at 1,160.59.

**BOMBAY** — The Bombay stock exchange was closed to enable brokers to complete paperwork. Trading will resume on Wednesday.

**FRANKFURT** — Shares recovered most of their early losses to end little changed from Monday after operators brought in small volumes to cover short positions. The Dax index ended 4.21 points lower at 1,353.95.

**PARIS** — French share prices ended with modest losses, rebounding from morning lows on short-covering and hopes of good news from a U.S.-Iraq meeting on Wednesday, the CAC-40 index closed 5.10 points down at 1,502.77.

**ZURICH** — Swiss shares closed lower, the market gripped by fears of Gulf war is imminent. In a generally quiet market the all-share SPI index fell 9.4 points, or 1.07 per cent, to 865.4.

**LONDON** — Prices finished above the day's low but the FTSE 100 index, depressed by fears of a Gulf war, closed at 2,099.9, below the psychological important 2,100 point level.

**NEW YORK** — U.S. blue chips firmed on bargain-hunting and short-covering after Gulf war fears caused overselling in earlier sessions, traders said. The Dow rose about three to 2,526.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, January 8, 1991  
Central Bank official rates

Buy Sell

U.S. dollar 665.0 670.0

Pound Sterling 1267.

## Soviet troops begin rounding up draft dodgers in 7 republics

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet troops marched through the Lithuanian capital early Tuesday and were sent to six other secessionist republics to enforce conscription and round up draft dodgers and deserters.

An "armoured column" of Soviet military hardware" entered Vilnius at 4:35 a.m. (0235 GMT) and rolled by the republic's legislative building before the 108 vehicles reached army barracks, the Lithuanian government said.

On Monday, the Defence Ministry ordered thousands of paratroopers to the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia and four other secessionist republics — Moldavia, Armenia, Georgia and the Ukraine.

It said national security was at stake.

The three Baltic republics have been saying for weeks they feared a military crackdown to repress their independence drives. Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze announced his resignation last month, saying he feared a dictatorship and a crackdown like those that killed hundreds in 1989 and 1990.

Thousands of young men in those republics have been ignoring orders to serve in the Red Army. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have enacted laws allowing their young men to do alternative service, such as hos-

pital or social work, instead of serving in the Red Army. Thousands have exercised the option, which the national government says is illegal.

At least two republics were given deadlines to comply with national draft laws or face military action — Friday for Latvia and Sunday for Estonia.

Estonian President Edgar Savisaar and Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimira Pruskiene both headed for Moscow, where Mrs. Pruskiene said she hoped to meet with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mavriks Vulsonis, a national lawmaker from Latvia, said Tuesday that Gen. Fyodor Kuzmin, commander of the Baltic military district, told him Monday that the army would not punish deserters and would allow them to serve in Latvia if they turned themselves in.

"We won't ask them (deserters) to go," he said. "We will try to say to them, maybe it would be better to go into the army or to hide. It's up to you. It's a problem of your conscience."

But Vulsonis warned that if draft-age youths did not respond to orders to serve, troops would start searching for them and "it will be a brutal thing."

The Lithuanian legislature Monday called the decision to send troops "one more brutal

step" by the Soviet leadership to provoke destabilization and conflict in the Baltics, Lithuania radio reported.

Thousands of workers demonstrated outside the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Tuesday to protest huge price hikes for food and other basic goods announced Monday.

The Lithuanian News Agency, ELTA, said the demonstrators, many of them drunk, were holding up banners demanding the republic's government resign.

About 100 broke through the building's huge steel front door before they were driven away by police with water hoses, ELTA said.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, in a broadcast speech, urged "all people of goodwill" to defend the Supreme Soviet and counter the demonstrators.

Nikolaus Neilsen, a Latvian member of the national legislature, called the dispatch of troops "a show of muscle." He said he would not characterize it as a crackdown yet, but felt it could develop into one.

Ilmars Bisers, another Latvian lawmaker interviewed Tuesday in Moscow, called the dispatch of troops "a game."

"The first step was the Printing House," he said, referring to the occupation of Latvia's main printing plant by Interior Minis-

try troops. "Now it's an escalation."

The Defence Ministry said in announcing the deployment Monday that this year's draft has been "especially alarming."

The compliance rate for conscription is just 12.5 per cent in Lithuania and 10 per cent in Georgia, it said. Other rates are 58.9 per cent for Moldavia; 28.1 per cent for Armenia; 25.3 per cent for Latvia; 25.5 per cent for Estonia.

"Local authorities in certain union republics have been increasingly negligent in performing duties to ensure the country's defence capability in accordance with Soviet laws," the Defence Ministry statement said.

The national military draft campaign "is in danger," it said. "Workload on soldiers in unarmored units is above the norm. This contradicts social justice and cannot be tolerated."

The statement said "paratroopers and air forces" will be involved in the search for draft evaders and deserters.

It did not say how many troops would be involved or when they would be deployed. Officials in several republics were unable to confirm Tuesday whether troops had arrived.

Baltic officials said at least two divisions were expected in their regions. A division normally has 10,000 soldiers.

The U.S. ambassador in Moscow met Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Monday and expressed concern about Kremlin plans to despatch troops to the Baltic republics, the State Department said in Washington.

"As I said last week, we would be very concerned about any sort of provocation," spokesman Richard Boucher said. "Ambassador (Jack) Matlock reiterated again our policy in his meetings."

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A London ambulance spokesman, requesting anonymity, said the train appeared to have hit the crash buffers at about 32 kilometres per hour.

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